

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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SMITH ASKS PARENTS TO HELP GARY STUDENTS PREPARE FOR ISTEP TESTS

INDIANAPOLIS – With the next round of ISTEP testing looming for students across Indiana, State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary) is asking parents in the Gary Community School Corporation to lend a hand in helping their children get ready for the test.

To help them in their efforts, the lawmaker is offering to provide materials that can enable parents to work with students in preparing for the testing.

"Students attending Gary Schools were able to return to the classroom just this week, after the resolution of the contract dispute between teachers and the school corporation," Smith said. "That places them behind other area students in getting classroom instruction, but an even greater problem is on the horizon when you realize that the next scheduled ISTEP tests are set to begin on September 18.

"As an educator, I am constantly emphasizing the importance of parental involvement in the lives of their children in the classroom," he continued. "Here is an example where parents can take an active role in helping their kids prepare for a series of tests that are crucial to advancing their child's education.

"Fortunately, there are materials out there that can give students an idea of the types of questions and problems that are generally asked on an ISTEP exam," Smith said. "They are examples of questions that have been used in previous examinations, and it can help identify the general areas covered in an exam."

Smith said parents can obtain these materials from two different sources.

People can access samples of test questions and other pertinent information through an Internet web site operated by the Indiana Department of Education:

www.doe.state.in.us/istep/publications.html

"They also can call me locally at 219-887-2046 or contact me by calling my Statehouse office through the toll-free telephone number of 1-800-382-9842 and talking to my legislative assistant, Nate Brim," Smith said. "We can send them a packet of information that can help them in preparation.

"There is very little time before the start of testing, so I strongly encourage people to secure these materials as soon as possible in order to help their children get through this testing period," Smith concluded.

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H14